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**DELAY OF THE INITIATION OF THE
INSTALLATION OF THE BENTONITE IN SILOS 1
AND 2**

11-20-91

**DOE/EPA
DOE-382-92
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LETTER**



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
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DOE-382-92

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - 5HR-12
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. Graham E. Mitchell, DOE Coordinator
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
40 South Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2086

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Mitchell:

As verbally discussed with you through several telephone conversations with Randi Allen recently, following is the chronology of events which have resulted in the delay of the initiation of the installation of the bentonite in Silos 1 and 2:

1. All equipment was received at FEMP on November 10, 1991.
2. Equipment installation and testing was initiated immediately upon equipment arrival.
3. By November 14, 1991, several problems with the system became evident, i.e., the hydraulic cylinders would not allow the sprayhead arms to raise and lower; the speeds of the slurry pump and two mixers could not be adjusted electrically; the underground water line feeding the water storage tanker was leaking; and there was a problem with the output signal from the weigh scale.
4. By Sunday, November 17, 1991, the above problems were resolved. However, during the systems operability test, problems with the weigh scale continued.
5. The weigh scale problem was solved on November 18, 1991. But, a malfunction with the computer software surfaced. Reprogramming efforts continued through Wednesday, November 20, 1991. With the resolution of the weigh scale problem, manual operation of the system became a feasible alternative.

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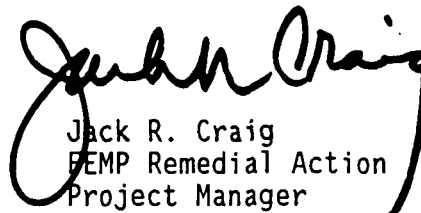
6. An operability test of the system in the manual mode using bentonite, was performed on November 20, 1991. Successful completion of the test allowed initiation of bentonite placement in Silo 1 on November 20, 1991.

We are estimating that it will take three days to install the bentonite in Silo 1. The bentonite will be installed through the center manway and one peripheral manway to assure adequate coverage of the surface and mound. Two days will be required to move the equipment over to Silo 2. The bentonite will need to be installed in all manways to adequately cover the five mounds in Silo 2, therefore, four days are anticipated to be required. We are currently anticipating completion of the project on November 29, 1991. This schedule does not take into consideration adverse weather conditions which could delay the project, i.e., rain, high winds, low temperatures.

In the event that the December 1, 1991, milestone for completion of the installation of the bentonite in the K-65 Silos cannot be obtained, we will be formally requesting an extension under the provisions of the Consent Agreement as Amended.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Randi Allen at FTS 774-6158 or (513) 738-6158.

Sincerely,


Jack R. Craig
FEMP Remedial Action
Project Manager

FO:Allen

cc:

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